2006 ELECTION

OHA TRUSTEE NO ISLAND RESIDENCY REQ (3)



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Aloha pumehana kakou. We live in the most beautiful place on Earth. Our native culture and language are the backbone of our community and the heartbeat of the Hawaiian, admired by millions the world over. I am optimistic that amidst challenges to Native Hawaiian programs and indigenous rights, our community has what it takes to overcome adversity with solid leadership.

As Public Information Director at OHA, I bring 14 years of agency experience in communications and administration to the table. I am past president of the statewide Aloha Festivals, the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu, and past commissioner for the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

I am a graduate of the UH Manoa Center for Hawaiian Studies and the Kamehameha Schools, a kumu hula graduate of Robert Cazimero's Halau Na Kamalei, kumu of my own halau, and leader of Ho'okena, celebrating 20 years.

While my passion is in Hawaiian cultural practices, my strengths in leadership, communications, diplomacy, history and contemporary issues are what our community needs now. The balance of Hawaiian culture and language fluency with socio-political understanding is critical.

The time is now to lead with dignity, intelligence and aloha. I am humbled and honored to have strong community support among Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians from Hawaii to Ni'ihau and abroad. At 43, I am ready to make the commitment and sacrifice to serve the citizens of Hawaii by honoring our ancestors, culture, history, people and environment, with aloha.